

15/07/11

Ms Gladys Berejiklian, MP
Level 35 Governor Macquarie Tower
1 Farrer Place
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Minister

It was with great interest that I read the article in today's SMH: <http://smh.drive.com.au/rta-to-be-killed-off-20110715-1hh3r.html>

I was, however, troubled by the following statement:

"The focus for the integrated transport authority is the customer, be it a **public transport user, a motorist, pedestrian or producer such as a farmer or manufacturer**. The customer will be at the centre of everything we do."

Possibly one of the greatest problems with the RTA as it currently stands is that it does not consider the communities that cars travel through. The statment above seems to reflect the same kind of thinking, the kind of thinking that lead to the creation of economic and cultural wastelands like parts Parramatte road and Lower Oxford Street, Sydney.

This is the same kind of thinking that now seem to inform the debate on Light Rail up Oxford Street, where the leading proposal is that there will only be two stops between Hyde Park and Moore Park.

This kind of two-dimentional, mass-transit thinking completely ignores that fact that viable cities have a fine grain, and that it is this fine grain that makes different parts of different cities appealing different parts of communités; creating character, amenity and livability, all things a an international city should be striving for.

To consider points A and B as isolated entities to be connected by the straightest, fastest, least friction-causing line possible is to completely ignore the fact that we live in distributed, interconnected networks with many, many nodes. The internet doesnt work by simply connecting A and B, nor does the economy, and no one with an inkling of how the world works today would debate this.

I sincerely hope that this new agency will concern itself with the bigger picture as well as its' "customers" and perhaps take as a guiding principle the following concept, articulated by some contemporary writers here, but well known to cultures the world over:

"The road of life twists and turns and no two directions are ever the same. Yet our lessons come from the journey, not the destination." Don Williams, Jr. (American Novelist and Poet, b.1968)

"Focus on the journey, not the destination. Joy is found not in finishing an activity but in doing it." Greg Anderson (American best-selling Author and founder of the American Wellness Project., b.1964)

I implore you, in the creation of this new entity, not just to co-ordinate all modes of transport with each other, but to co-ordinate transport with the communities they serve and pass through.

Regards

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